

2025/2026

Lecturer : H. MOUFEK

Algebra 1 - Tutorial 5

Basic Training Cycle
Polynomials and Rational
Fractions

Exercise 1

Determine the degrees and leading coefficients of the following polynomials :

1 $P_1 = (1 + X)^n + (1 - X)^n, n \in \mathbb{N}^*$

2 $P_2 = (X + 3)^n - (X - 2)^n$

4 $P_4 = \prod_{k=0}^n (X - 2)^k$

3 $P_3 = \prod_{k=0}^n (2X - k)$

5 $P_5 = (X + 1)^{2n} - X^{2n-1}(X + 2n)$

Exercise 2

State whether each of the following functions is a polynomial function and justify your answer :

1 $f_1 : x \mapsto \sin(x)$

4 $f_4 : x \mapsto e^x$

2 $f_2 : x \mapsto \frac{1}{x}$

3 $f_3 : x \mapsto \frac{1}{1 + x^2}$

5 $f_5 : x \mapsto \frac{(x + 1)^{42} - (1 - x)^{42}}{x}$

Exercise 3

Let n be a natural number.

Prove that there does not exist a polynomial P such that : $P^2 = X(X^{2n} + 1)$.

Exercise 4

Determine all real polynomials P such that :

1 $P(1) = 0$ and $P(2) = 0$

4 $P(X) = \frac{1}{2}XP'(X)$ where $P \in \mathbb{R}_2[X]$

2 $P(1) = 1$ and $P(2) = 2$

5 $(X^2 + 1)P'' = 6P$

3 $P^3 = X^2P$

6 $P \circ P = P$

7 $P(0) = 0, P(1) = 1, P'(0) = 2$ et $P'(1) = 3$.

Exercise 5

Let E be the set of polynomials $P \in \mathbb{C}[X]$ satisfying $P(X^2 + 1) = P^2 + 1$ and $P(0) = 0$.

1 In this question, we consider a polynomial $P \in \mathbb{C}[X]$ and assume that $P \in E$.

a Compute $P(1)$, $P(2)$, and $P(5)$.

We consider the sequence $(u_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ defined by $u_0 = 0$, and $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, u_{n+1} = u_n^2 + 1$.

b Prove that for every natural number n , $P(u_n) = u_n$.

c Prove that the sequence $(u_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is strictly increasing.

d Deduce that $P(X) = X$.

2 What is the set E ?

Exercise 6

What can be said about three elements P, Q and R in $\mathbb{R}[X]$, if they satisfy the equation $P^2 - XQ^2 + R^2 = 0$?

Exercise 7

Let P be the polynomial defined by $P(X) = (X - 1)^4$. Compute $P^{(k)}(1)$ for any integer $k > 0$. Generalize this result for $P(X) = (X - a)^n$, (with $a \in \mathbb{R}, n > 0$).

Exercise 8

Use the Euclidean division of A by B in the following cases :

1 $A = 4X^4 + X^3 - 2X^2 - 5$ et $B = 2X^2 + X + 1$.

2 $A = iX^3 - X^2 + 1 - i$ et $B = (1 + i)X^2 - iX + 3$.

Exercise 9

The remainder of the division of a polynomial $A(X)$ by $X - 1$ is 1, the remainder of $A(X)$ by $X + 1$ is -1 , and the remainder of $A(X)$ by $X - 2$ is 2.

What is the remainder of the division of $A(X)$ by $(X - 1)(X + 1)(X - 2)$?

Exercise 10

Let $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$. Determine the remainder of the Euclidean division of A by B :

1 $A = X^{2n} + X^n + X + 1$ et $B = (X - 1)^2$.

2 $A = (X - 1)^n + (X + 1)^n - 1$ et $B = X^2 - 1$.

3 $A = X^{2n} + 2X^n + 1$ et $B = X^2 + 1$.

Exercise 11

Prove that :

1 $(X + 1)^{2n+1} + X^{n+2}$ is divisible by $X^2 + X + 1$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$).

2 $\left(\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} X^k\right)^2 - n^2 X^{n-1}$ is divisible by $(X - 1)^2$ ($n \geq 2$). Is it also divisible $(X - 1)^3$?

Exercise 12

Let $n > 2$ be a natural number. Determine all polynomials in $\mathbb{R}_n[X]$ that are divisible by $X + 1$ and whose remainders in the Euclidean division by $X + 2, X + 3, \dots, X + n + 1$ are equal.

Exercise 13

Determine $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $(X + 1)^n - X^n - 1$ is divisible by $P = X^2 + X + 1$.

Exercise 14

Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and define $P = (X^2 - 1)^n$.

1 Calculate $P^{(n)}$ using the Leibniz's formula.

2 Compute the leading coefficient of $P^{(n)}$ using two different methods and deduce the value of $\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k}^2$.

Exercise 15

Determine the gcd and lcm of P and Q , as well as a Bézout identity, for the following cases :

1 $P = X^4 + X^3 - 3X^2 - 4X - 1$ et $Q = X^3 + X^2 - X - 1$.

2 $P = X^4 + X^3 - 2X + 1$ et $Q = X^2 + X + 1$.

Exercise 16

Prove that $(X - 1)^2$ and $(X + 1)^2$ are coprime.

Exercise 17

We Define a sequence of polynomials $(P_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ by setting $P_0 = X$ and $P_{n+1} = (P_n - 2)^2$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Determine the remainder of the Euclidean division of P_n by X^3 .

Exercise 18

Without expanding, show that the polynomial $P(X) = (X - 3)^2 - 2(X - 2)^2 + (X - 1)^2 - 2$ is the zero polynomial.

Exercise 19

Let $p, q, r \in \mathbb{N}$. Prove that $P = X^{3p+2} + X^{3q+1} + X^{3r}$ is divisible by $Q = X^2 + X + 1$ in $\mathbb{R}[X]$, using two different methods :

- 1 By using the roots of the polynomial Q .
- 2 By computing $P - Q$ and factoring $X^3 - 1$.

Exercise 20

- 1 Show that -1 is a triple root of $P(X) = X^5 + 2X^4 + 2X^3 + 4X^2 + 5X + 2$. Deduce its factorization.
- 2 Determine the multiplicity order of the root 1 for the polynomials : $P(X) = X^{2n} - nX^{n+1} + nX^{n-1} - 1$ et $Q(X) = X^{2n+1} - (2n+1)X^{n+1} + (2n+1)X^n - 1$.

Exercise 21

Factor the following polynomials in $\mathbb{C}[X]$ and then in $\mathbb{R}[X]$:

- 1 $X^3 - 5X^2 + 3X + 9$.
- 2 $X^4 + 3X^3 - 14X^2 + 22X - 12$, knowing that $i + 1$ is a complex root.
- 3 $2X^4 - 3X^2 - 2$.
- 4 $X^4 + X^3 - X - 1$.
- 5 $(X^2 - X + 1)^2 + 1$.
- 6 $(X^2 - X + 2)^2 + (X - 2)^2$.
- 7 $X^6 - 7X^3 - 8$.
- 8 $X^6 + 1$.
- 9 $6X^5 + 15X^4 + 20X^3 + 15X^2 + 6X + 1$.
- 10 $X^6 - X^5 + X^4 - X^3 + X^2 - X + 1$

Exercise 22

1 Factor the polynomial $P(X) = (X + 1)^n - (X - 1)^n$ in $\mathbb{C}[X]$ ($n \geq 2$).

2 Deduce that for all $p \in \mathbb{N}^*$, $\prod_{k=1}^p \cotan \frac{k\pi}{2p+1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2p+1}}$.

Exercise 23

Solve the following system in \mathbb{C}^3

$$\begin{cases} x + y + z = 1 \\ x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1 \\ x^3 + y^3 + z^3 = -5 \end{cases}$$

To do this, we will look for a monic polynomial of degree 3 with roots x, y , and z , and we will calculate each of its coefficients using the given conditions.

Exercise 24

Consider the polynomials :

$$P(X) = X^8 - 2X^4 + 8X^3 + 1 \quad \text{and} \quad Q(X) = X^6 - X^4 - X^2 + 1.$$

1 Find the obvious roots of $Q(X)$. What is their multiplicity?

2 Decompose $Q(X)$ into a product of irreducible factors in $\mathbb{R}[X]$.

3 Provide the theoretical form of the partial fraction decomposition of the rational fraction $F(X) = \frac{P(X)}{Q(X)}$ over \mathbb{R} .

4 Calculate the coefficients of this decomposition.

Exercise 25

Decompose the following fractions into sums of partial fractions in \mathbb{R} :

1 $A(X) = \frac{X^2+2X+5}{X^2-3X+2}$

2 $B(X) = \frac{X^3-X+2}{X(X^2+X+1)(X^2+1)^4}$

3 $E(X) = \frac{n!}{X(X+1)\cdots(X+n)} \quad (n \geq 0)$

4 $F(X) = \frac{X^5+4}{X^4+4X^2}$

Additional Exercises

Exercise 26

Let $P(X) = X^3 - 2X^2 - 5X + 6$.

- 1 Determine an obvious root of the polynomial P .
- 2 Factor P in the form $(X + 2)Q(X)$, where Q is a polynomial of degree 2.
- 3 Deduce the sign table of P on \mathbb{R} .
- 4 Solve the inequalities $(\ln x)^3 - 2(\ln x)^2 - 5 \ln x + 6 > 0$ and $e^{2x} - 2e^x \leq 5 - 6e^{-x}$.

Exercise 27

Let $(a, n) \in \mathbb{R}^* \times \mathbb{N}^*$.

We Define $A(X) = X^2 - 2X \operatorname{ch}(a) + 1$ and $P_n(X) = X^{n+1} \operatorname{sh}(na) - X^n \operatorname{sh}((n+1)a) + \operatorname{sh}(a)$.

Show that A divides P_n in $\mathbb{R}[X]$ and determine the quotient by seeking to factor A in the explicit expression of P_n .

Exercise 28

Let $P = aX^3 + bX^2 + cX + d \in \mathbb{C}[X]$ with $a \neq 0$. We denote α_1, α_2 and α_3 as the three roots of P .

- 1 Express $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3, \alpha_1\alpha_2 + \alpha_2\alpha_3 + \alpha_3\alpha_1$ and $\alpha_1\alpha_2\alpha_3$ in terms of a, b, c and d .
- 2 Expanding $(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3)^2$, express $\alpha_1^2 + \alpha_2^2 + \alpha_3^2$ in terms of a, b, c and d .
- 3 Provide a necessary and sufficient condition on d such that 0 is not a root of P , and in this case, compute the expression $\frac{1}{\alpha_1} + \frac{1}{\alpha_2} + \frac{1}{\alpha_3}$ in terms of a, b, c and d .

Exercise 29

Given $(n+1)$ distinct complex numbers (a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n) and $(n+1)$ complex numbers (b_0, b_1, \dots, b_n) , we seek a polynomial P of minimal degree such that

$$\forall i \in \llbracket 0, n \rrbracket, \quad P(a_i) = b_i.$$

Proposition. Such a polynomial exists. It is moreover unique if we assume that $\deg(P) \leq n$.

- 1 We define $L_i = \prod_{k \neq i} \frac{X - a_k}{a_i - a_k}$. Show that $L_i \in \mathbb{C}_n[X]$ for all i , and calculate $L_i(a_j)$.
Deduce the existence of the polynomial $P \in \mathbb{C}_n[X]$ such that $\forall i \in \llbracket 0, n \rrbracket, P(a_i) = b_i$.
- 2 Prove the uniqueness of such a polynomial. Is there always uniqueness if we do not assume $\deg(P) \leq n$?

Exercise 30

We consider the sequence of polynomials $(P_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ defined by :

$$\begin{cases} P_0 = 1 \text{ and } P_1 = X \\ \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \quad P_{n+2} = 2XP_{n+1} - P_n \end{cases}$$

- 1** For all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, determine the parity, the degree, and the leading coefficient of P_n .
- 2**
 - a** Show that for all $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, we have $2 \cos(a) \cos(b) = \cos(a + b) + \cos(a - b)$.
 - b** Establish that for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $P_n(\cos(x)) = \cos(nx)$.
- 3**
 - a** Let $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$. Solve the equation $\cos(n\theta) = 0$ on $[0, \pi]$.
 - b** Deduce that P_n splits in \mathbb{R} and determine its roots.
 - c** Give a factored expression of $P_n(X)$.
 - d** By calculating $P_n(0)$ using two different methods, show that :

$$\prod_{k=0}^{n-1} \cos\left(\frac{(2k+1)\pi}{2n}\right) = \begin{cases} \frac{(-1)^{n/2}}{2^{n-1}} & \text{if } n \text{ is even,} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- 4** Using De Moivre's formula and Newton's binomial theorem, give another expression for $P_n(X)$.

Exercise 31

Determine $m > 0$ such that the polynomial $P(X) = X^4 - (3m+2)X^2 + m^2$ has four roots in arithmetic progression.

Exercise 32

Let P be a polynomial of degree n such that for all $k \in \{0, \dots, n\}$,

$$P(k) = \frac{k}{k+1}.$$

Determine $P(n+1)$.

Exercise 33

Find $a \in \mathbb{R}$ such that the polynomial $P = (1-a)x^3 + (2+a)x^2 + (a-1)x + 7-a$ has a complex root with modulus 1. Find the other roots.